

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended to identify items 11 and 12 in Figure 2c. Newly-added Claim 12 supported by the specification at page 7, lines 15-16. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shimizu et al. in view of Tamaki et al. is respectfully traversed. Tamaki et al. is not available as prior art against the present application.

The present application is a National Stage of a PCT application that was filed on February 23, 2005. The present application claims priority to Japanese application serial No. 2004-065631, filed on March 8, 2004. A certified English translation of the '631 priority application is submitted herewith. The priority application describes the claimed invention, see, for example, pages 1-2 and 6-50. Accordingly, the present application is entitled to the March 8, 2004 filing date of the '631 priority application.

In contrast, Tamaki et al. was published on January 18, 2007 and accorded a 371 date of September 22, 2005, based on a PCT application filed on March 26, 2004. Accordingly, the Tamaki et al. reference is not available as prior art against the present application. Therefore, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

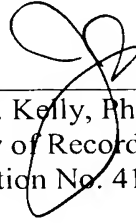
The objection to the specification regarding Figure 2c is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. Items 11 and 12 of Figure 2C have been identified in the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/591,913  
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Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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